THE *EFFECTS* and *VIRTUES* OF The CROSSE or MEDAL OF THE GREAT PATRIARCH St. *BENEDICT.*

Extracted out of the Original Printed in Germany.

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The Effects and Virtues of the Cross or Medal of the Great Patriarch St. Benedict.

THE Brazen Serpent set up by *Moses* in the Desert, had not such efficacy against the bitings of venemous Beasts, as the Sacred Cross hath against the assaults of Devils and their dependents. And although the virtue thereof depend solely upon Christ Jesus; yet surely we may not doubt but that God more particularly applyes it in regard of the merits of his Saints. This is most evidently seen in the Crosses or Medals

of St. *Benedict*; the effects whereof are so wonderful and so well known in *Germany*.

It is not a very easie matter to find out the first beginning of these Medals, but it is manifest, that St. *Benedict*, and his Disciples, had the Cross evermore in singular honour and veneration. The chief furniture which this Holy Patriarch carryed with him into his Cave at *Sublake*, was a Cross which may be seen remaining this day in St. *Scholastica's* Monastery: and for a pledge of his affection to his Disciple St. *Maurus*, he gave him when he sent him into *France* a parcel of the true Cross. If he drives away that importunating Black bird, or rather that wicked Devil which tempts him to impurity: if he discovers the poyson which they present to him in a Cup to

destroy

deſtroy him: if he expels the Spirit of Pride from the heart of one of his Religious Monks: in a word, if he will diſcipate the deluſions of a fantaſtical conflagration, 'tis by means of the ſign of the Croſs.

With this divine Inſtrument St. *Maurus*, and St. *Placidus* wrought all their Miracles invoking at the ſame time, the name of their Holy Father *Benedict*, though he was then living, and his devotion to the Croſs was ſpread abroad, throughout the whole Order proportionably to its extent and dilation, witneſs *Rabanus Maurus* in his age, who left to poſterity ſuch variety of ingenious Croſſes: and perhaps it proceeds from the examples of St. *Maurus*, and St. *Placidus*, that an occaſion was taken to joyn the invocation of St. *Be-*

nedict with the sign of the Cross, and even to grave upon Medals his name, in manner of a Cross. This practice was abolished, and the very memory thereof, would have been totally lost and extinguished, had not a meer casual discovery of these Medals been made in these latter times in *Germany*, after the manner hereensuing.

In the year 1647. a diligent inquest being made after Witches, and Sorcerers in *Germany*, and several of them having been executed in the Town of *Strasburgh*: some amongst the rest, averred to the Judges in their interrogatories and Examinations, That their charms and enchantments could work no effect upon the Persons or Cattle of the Canton of *Nattremberg*, neighbouring upon the Abbey of *Metten*, of St. *Be-*

nedict

nedicts Order; by reason of certain Sacred Medals, which were there in certain places by them discovered.

And the said Medals being accordingly found, no one (not not the Writers themselves) could explicate the meaning of the Characters engraved upon them, till such time as they light upon an antient Manuscript in the Library of the said Abbey, which perfectly clear'd the difficulty.

A relation of this was made to the Duke of Mantua, who being desirous to inform himself exactly of all the particulars, caus'd the aforesaid Medals and Manuscripts to be brought to *Ingolstad*, and from thence to *Monachium*: and having compar'd one with the other, it was concluded, That the said Medals might profitably be made use of,

without the leaſt ſuſpition of Error, or danger of Superſtition: Of all which, he caus'd a Verbal Proceſs (as they term it) to be drawn up.

As concerning the Characters, engraven upon theſe Medals; each Letter betokens a Word: And behold the Figure with the Interpretation.

In one of the Faces of the Croſs, where you ſee theſe Letters, *C. S. S. M. L. N. D. S. M. D.* you muſt read,

Crux

Crux Sacra Sit Mihi Lux.
Non Draco Sit Mihi Dux.

Which founds somewhat after this sense in our Language.

O Sacred Cross, be thou my light.
Satan, avoid out of my sight.

The four Letters standing in the four Corners, to wit, *C. S. P. B.* signifie these words,

Crux Sancti Patris Benedicti.

The Cross of the Holy Father Benedict.

In the other, these two Verses are traced,

Vade retro Satana, nunquam suade mihi vana;
Sunt mala quæ libas, ipse venena bibas.

Avaunt

Avaunt foul Fiend, vain are thy
tempting charms;
The Cross shall ward me from thy
pyxeneus harms.

The Fame of this Discovery being neis'd abroad in the Countrey; every devout person was desirous to have some of these Medals: whereupon many were made according to the model of them which were thus found; Which being bless'd by the Religious of the Order, have produc'd wonderful effects, principally against all sorts of Charms and Witchcrafts; as they have happily experienced, who have made use of them for themselves, or for their Cattle bewitched, by dipping them in the water which they gave them to drink. And surely no one can doubt but that the use of such Sacred things is very

very profitable, when accompanied with true Faith in God, and devout Veneration towards the Holy Cross, and the Glorious St. *Benedict*, both whose wonders are otherwise so well known. And by the sensible effects, which this devout practise dayly produces, we may judge of the invisible effects which it operates in the Souls of them, who use it with the requisite dispositions.

FINIS.